

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

COR-0510
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22 JUN 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT : Planning Discussions with Army/ARPA
Staff Personnel

1. An initial planning meeting between representatives of ARPA/Army and CIA with regard to Project VEDAS took place on 16 June. Appropriate DPD staff personnel attended and the following major items were agreed. Specific agreement was clearly conditional and not binding on our superiors on either side.

a. DPD is to be completely responsible for preparation of an appropriate complete security plan covering general security procedures as well as detailed arrangements, in the same manner as CORONA security has been established. This plan would be reviewed with ARPA and Army for the purpose of full, mutual understanding and to prevent any adverse impact on the developmental program.

b. ARPA at present has two principal contractors whereas the CORONA program has one prime contractor with sub-contractor relationships. Army experience to date with GE, one of the primes, has been similar to our experience. The various conflicts of interest of the VEDAS prime contractors and methods of reviewing these were discussed at some length. It was believed that between CIA and Army/ARPA no major impedance would occur. DPD representatives advised that the recommended system should be the prime/sub relationship established for CORONA, carried over to VEDAS. It was agreed that the present CORONA system should be followed.

c. Contractual arrangements and procedures would be the responsibility of DPD. Financial arrangements and procedures would also be the responsibility of DPD.

d. Operational procedures and SOP's which have been tested in CPX's during actual CORONA shots will be mutually reviewed to determine applicability for the VEDAS program.

Army, NRO and DARPA
review(s) completed.

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e. The DPD Control Center will be the central location; communications procedures in effect for CORONA will be used.

f. The VEDAS launches will be handled by the Palo Alto Control Center. Recovery procedures in effect for CORONA will be used for VEDAS. Courier service to the processing center will be the same.

g. BMD will be fully responsible for operations at Vandenberg and acceptance of payloads, in the same manner as for CORONA. VEDAS payloads would be handled and assembled at

h. The processing center selected by Army/ARPA is Autometrics, in New York City. Security arrangements will be set up by DPD Security.

2. I had the erroneous impression that technical management would be an Army responsibility, and consistent with this, I agreed that an Army officer be present in the Control Center here for the go-no-go decision. Also that an Army officer would be present at the Palo Alto Control Center. Subsequently I read the DD/P's memorandum of 16 June 1959, and confirmed with Dr. Golovin that on 15 June it was agreed between Mr. Johnson and Mr. Bissell that technical management would be the responsibility of ARPA/CIA(DPD), and would be exercised by ARPA/CIA(DPD). Further that Army, as primary customer, would provide a representative for inclusion during VEDAS planning. Therefore the decision for launch will be made in the same manner as for CORONA by DPD. Responsibilities within the Palo Alto Control Center will be unchanged from those established for CORONA.

3. In order to adequately discharge the technical responsibilities in DPD, an experienced mapping and charting officer is needed. Additionally, the workload in finance will require one additional person in the Comptroller's Branch. Contracts Branch may be able to handle the additional load without increase in personnel, and no further increases elsewhere in DPD are foreseen at this time.

4. A further meeting is being held on 17 June with Dr. Golovin of ARPA. Your memorandum of 16 June 1959, which was confirmed by Dr. Golovin, plus the results of the meeting on 16 June, with the few

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exceptions, should provide sufficient CIA policy guidance for the present. The proposed ARPA/CIA staff position on all these matters was generally agreed.

5. In addition to the foregoing, it was agreed with the ARPA representatives at the 17 June meeting that political approvals for launches would be the responsibility of CIA with DOD support, and ARPA providing technical justification for flights.

WILLIAM BURKE
Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

DPD-DD/P:W Burke ☐
22 June 1959

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